



FloorPrep

Legislative Digest

Friday, July 31, 1998

John Boehner
Chairman
8th District, Ohio

House Meets at 1:00 p.m. for Legislative Business

Anticipated Floor Action:

H.R. 2183—Bipartisan Campaign Integrity Act (Continue Consideration)



H.R. 2183—Bipartisan Campaign Integrity Act

Floor Situation: The House is scheduled to continue consideration of H.R. 2183 as its first order of business today. The House has been considering the Shays-Meehan substitute under a modified open rule. The rule makes in order 11 substitute amendments and provides an hour of general debate on each substitute. The rule accords priority in recognition to members who have their amendments to the substitutes pre-printed in the *Congressional Record* and prohibits perfecting amendments to the substitutes that include tax or tariff measures. The rule states that if more than one substitute amendment is adopted, the one which receives the greatest number of votes will prevail and be reported back to the House. The chairman of the Committee of the Whole may postpone votes and reduce the voting time on a postponed vote to five minutes, so long as it follows a regular 15-minute vote. Finally, the rule provides one motion to recommit, with or without instructions.

Summary: H.R. 2183 amends the 1971 Federal Election Campaign Act (FECA) to (1) ban the use of certain “soft money” by national political parties and federal candidates; (2) increase the aggregate annual limit on contributions made by individuals to political parties; and (3) repeal limitations on the amount of coordinated expenditures that may be made by political parties. The bill indexes contribution limits to inflation beginning in 1999. The bill requires that radio and television communications paid for by third parties be fully disclosed. It revises current Federal Election Commission (FEC) filing requirements to mandate monthly reports by principal campaign committees and other political committees and requires electronic filing for certain reports. The bill also eliminates the “best efforts” exception with respect to obtaining information regarding the occupation or the name of employers of certain individual contributors. The bill was introduced by Hutchinson *et al.* and was not considered by a House committee.

Views: The Republican leadership has not taken a unified position on the measure or any of the substitutes. An official Clinton Administration viewpoint was also unavailable at press time.

Substitutes: The rule makes in order 11 substitute amendments and provides for an hour of general debate on each substitute. The House is expected to complete consideration of the Shays-Meehan substitute today.

— *Shays-Meehan Substitute* —

The Shays-Meehan substitute eliminates federal and state soft money that influences federal elections. It redefines the concept of “express advocacy,” as it applies to campaign spending by independent groups and party organizations, to include radio and television communications that refer to a clearly identified federal candidate within 60 days of an election or those communications that include unmistakable support for or opposition to a clearly identified federal candidate outside the 60-day period. The substitute permits only hard money to be used for express advocacy ads. The amendment requires candidates to file their FEC reports electronically and requires the FEC to post reports on the Internet.

The substitute requires anyone who makes an independent expenditure of \$1,000 or more within 20 days of an election to file a report with the FEC within 24 hours and permits the FEC to conduct random audits and investigations of campaign committees. The amendment prohibits a campaign committee from depositing a contribution check before all contributor information is complete.

It clarifies restrictions on fundraising on federal property and codifies the Supreme Court’s *Beck* decision which requires labor organizations to annually notify employees who pay agency fees that they are eligible to object to the use of their funds for political activities. Finally, the amendment bans political parties from making coordinated expenditures on behalf of those candidates that do not limit their own spending to \$50,000. The amendment contains the language of H.R. 3526, the Bipartisan Campaign Reform Act, which was introduced by Mr. Shays and Mr. Meehan on March 19, 1998. *Staff Contacts: Allison Rak (Shays), x5-5541; Amy Rosenbaum (Meehan), x5-3411*

Amendments: Yesterday, the House completed debate, but has not yet voted on, the following amendments:

- * an amendment by **Mr. Barr** to prohibit the use of bilingual ballots. *Contact: x5-2931*
- * an amendment by **Mr. McIntosh** to prohibit congressional communications regarding legislative positions of members from being interpreted as “coordination with a candidate.” *Contact: x5-3021*
- * an amendment by **Mr. Horn** to allow the principle campaign committee for a House or Senate candidate to send campaign mailings at the reduced postal rate now provided to party committees with a limit of two mailings per household in the candidate’s district or state. *Staff Contact: Dave Bartel, x5-6676*
- * an amendment by **Mr. Shaw** to prohibit candidates for the House of Representatives from raising more than 50 percent of campaign funds out of the state in which the candidate is running. *Staff Contact: Caroline Lunsford, x5-3026*

- * an amendment by **Ms. Kaptur** to prohibit contributions by multicandidate political committees or separate funds sponsored by foreign-controlled corporations and associations. The amendment defines “foreign-owned corporation” as a corporation which has at least 50 percent of its ownership interest controlled by persons other than citizens or nationals of the United States. The amendment also establishes a clearinghouse of political activities information within the Federal Election Commission. The duties of the director of the clearinghouse include developing a filing, coding, and cross-indexing system; as well as identifying all persons in FEC reports, registrations, and other existing public disclosures. **Staff Contact: Tim Sechrist, x5-4146**
- * an amendment by **Mr. Stearns** to prohibit presidential candidates who receive federal funding from soliciting soft money. Specifically, the amendment states that any candidate for president or vice president cannot receive funds from the Presidential Election Campaign Fund unless the candidate certifies that he or she will not solicit any funds to use to influence the election, including any funds for an independent expenditure. **Staff Contact: Peter Krug, x5-5744**
- * an amendment by **Mr. Stearns** to permit permanent residents who served in the Armed Forces to make contributions to political campaigns and committees. **Staff Contact: Peter Krug, x5-5744**
- * an amendment by **Mr. Whitfield** to increase the individual contribution limit from \$1,000 to \$3,000. Supporters of the amendment contend that, adjusted for inflation since 1974, the individual contribution should be \$3,260. **Staff Contact: Jason Van Pelt, x5-3115.**
- * an amendment by **Mr. Whitfield** to replace the substitute’s definition of “express advocacy” with that approved by the Supreme Court in *Buckley v. Valeo*. **Staff Contact: Jason Van Pelt, x5-3115.**
- * an amendment by **Mr. English** to prohibit “bundling” of campaign contributions, whereby PACs and other organizations combine contributions from several sources and then forward them to candidates. The amendment allows such intermediaries to provide only advice to individuals about making a contribution—e.g., providing addressing information. **Staff Contact: Laura Eugster, x5-5406**

Additional Information: See *Legislative Digest*, Vol. XXVII, #14, Pt. II, June 1, 1998.



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